

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/JP2004/012235

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 G03F7/023

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 G03F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| X          | GB 2 240 549 A (SONY CORPORATION)<br>7 August 1991 (1991-08-07)<br>example 2  | 1-7                   |
| X          | US 6 210 855 B1 (UEDA TAKAFUMI ET AL)<br>3 April 2001 (2001-04-03)<br>cited in the application<br>column 2, lines 47-58<br>column 6, lines 38-67<br>column 16, lines 53-57; example 7 | 1-7                   |
| A          | US 5 422 221 A (OKAZAKI ET AL)<br>6 June 1995 (1995-06-06)<br>the whole document  | 1-7                   |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

8 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

15/04/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Ludi, M

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

International Application No  
**PCT/JP2004/012235**

| Patent document<br>cited in search report |    | Publication<br>date |    | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication<br>date |
|---|----|---------------------|----|----------------------------|---------------------|
| GB 2240549                                | A  | 07-08-1991          | JP | 3225340 A                  | 04-10-1991          |
|   |    |                     | JP | 3282548 A                  | 12-12-1991          |
|   |    |                     | DE | 4102946 A1                 | 01-08-1991          |
| US 6210855                                | B1 | 03-04-2001          | JP | 3287234 B2                 | 04-06-2002          |
|   |    |                     | JP | 10097066 A                 | 14-04-1998          |
|   |    |                     | US | 2001018160 A1              | 30-08-2001          |
| US 5422221                                | A  | 06-06-1995          | JP | 3010963 B2                 | 21-02-2000          |
|   |    |                     | JP | 6242602 A                  | 02-09-1994          |